

Exercise walk-through

Introduction to Culture ■ 3.1

eXercise

You must be able to

- define **culture** 文化 and a **cultural trait** 文化特征
- distinguish **material culture** 物质文化 from **nonmaterial culture** 非物质文化
- give an example of each
- explain how cultural traits combine into a **cultural complex** 文化综合体

Method — Culture and traits

Culture is the shared beliefs, practices, and objects of a group. A **cultural trait** is a single element of it — a food, a gesture, a belief.

Method — Material vs nonmaterial

Material culture = physical objects (clothes, tools, buildings). **Nonmaterial culture** = ideas without physical form (language, religion, values).

Method — Complexes

Related traits form a **cultural complex** — e.g. tea includes the leaf (material) plus customs of when and how to drink it (nonmaterial).

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Define a cultural trait and give one example.

Solution 2.1

Method: Culture and traits

Worked steps

a single element of a culture **B1**; e.g. a food, language, belief, or gesture **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State the difference between material and nonmaterial culture.

Solution 2.2

Method: Material vs nonmaterial

Worked steps

material = physical objects **B1**; nonmaterial = ideas/beliefs/values with no physical form **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

Classify each as material or nonmaterial culture.

- (a) A traditional festival's beliefs.
- (b) The costumes worn at the festival.

Solution 2.3

Method: Material vs nonmaterial

Worked steps

(a) nonmaterial **B1**. (b) material **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

A religion's beliefs and moral values are an example of

- A** material culture
- B** nonmaterial culture
- C** a cultural landscape
- D** relocation diffusion

Solution 3.1

Method: Material vs nonmaterial

A material culture

B nonmaterial culture 

C a cultural landscape

D relocation diffusion

Worked steps

B. beliefs without physical form are nonmaterial culture.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Which is the best example of a cultural trait?

- A** an entire continent
- B** a specific style of greeting
- C** the global economy
- D** a map projection

Solution 3.2

Method: Culture and traits

- A an entire continent
- B a specific style of greeting
- C the global economy
- D a map projection



Worked steps

B. a single custom (greeting) is a cultural trait.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A group's cuisine involves special foods and rules about eating together.

- (a) Name the material part.
- (b) Name the nonmaterial part.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

(a) the foods/utensils themselves **B1**. (b) the customs/rules about eating **B1**.